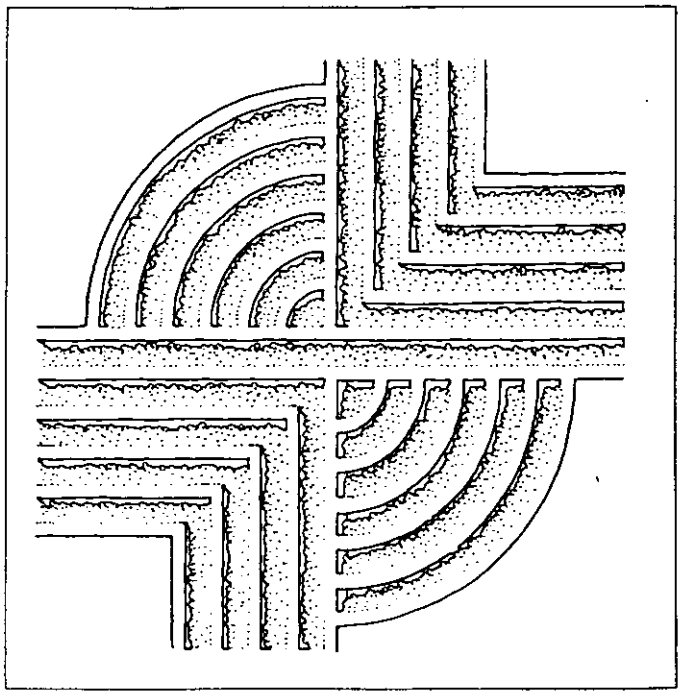
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE SILVER LAKE - LYLES TRANSMISSION LINE, CALHOUN, LEXINGTON, AND RICHLAND COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 132

© 2001 by Chicora Foundation, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted, or transcribed in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior permission of Chicora Foundation, Inc. except for brief quotations used in reviews. Full credit must be given to the authors, publisher, and project sponsor.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE SILVER LAKE - LYLES TRANSMISSION LINE, CALHOUN, LEXINGTON, AND RICHLAND COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

Prepared by:
Natalie Adams

Prepared for:
Mr. Nick Roarke
Sabine & Waters Environmental
Land Management Consultants
P.O. Box 1072
Summerville, S.C. 29484

Chicora Research Contribution 132

Chicora Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 8664 ▫ 861 Arbutus Dr.
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

February 15, 1994

This report is printed on recycled, permanent paper ∞

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT

This study presents the results of an intensive archaeological survey of a 3.4 mile transmission line situated south of the city of Cayce. The primary purpose of this investigation is to identify and assess the archaeological remains present in the proposed right of way.

As a result of this work one archaeological site (38LX371) was identified, one site (38LX210) was revisited, and an active cemetery (St. Paul's cemetery) was examined. 38LX371 is a small prehistoric scatter with twentieth century remains as well. The site is in a heavily disturbed area and is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register. 38LX210 is outside of the right of way and will not be impacted. St. Paul's cemetery is located just north of the right of way and contains a number of marked burials dating from the mid 1960s to 1994. In addition, several unmarked grave depression were noted. Also, there were several depressions in the southern area of the cemetery (just north of a series of aluminum posts) which may or may not be graves. Care should be taken that construction activities do not take place north of these posts.

LIST OF FIGURES

Introduction

This investigation was conducted by Ms. Natalie Adams of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Nick Roarke of Sabine & Waters. The proposed 3.4 mile transmission line right of way is situated about four miles south of the city of Cayce. While portions of the corridor are in Richland and Calhoun counties, the majority of the corridor is within Lexington County. The 130 foot right of way begins on the east bank of the Congaree River, near its confluence with Gills Creek, and ends at the Silver Lake substation located just west of the I-26 / U.S. Hwy 21/176 interchange, following a roughly northeast - southwest orientation (Figure 1).

The right of way is intersected not only by the Congaree River, but also Gills Creek and Toms Branch. In addition, I-26 intersected the corridor near its southwest end. A portion of this corridor, between an existing transmission line and an abandoned railroad, has been damaged by logging activities and contains large divots which hold water. Other areas, particularly near the river, have been cultivated and apparently had been plowed just before the survey. An underground telephone cable has also been placed through the majority of the corridor. The only other major disturbance noted was the presence of I-26 which has caused major land alteration in that portion of the corridor. Activities which have the potential to damage or destroy the archaeological remains in the project area include clearing, grubbing, and the placement of powerline poles along the right of way.

Chicora received a request for a budgetary proposal by Mr. Nick Roarke of Sabine & Waters. A proposal was submitted on November 9, 1993. This proposal was accepted on January 27, 1994.

This study is intended to provide a detailed explanation of the archaeological survey of the right of way and the findings. The statewide archaeological site files held by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology were examined for information pertinent to the project area. In addition, the South Carolina Department of Archives & History was consulted about National Register properties in the area. No National Register properties were found to be located in the project area (Dr. Tracy Powers, personal communication, February 2, 1994). The field investigations were conducted on February 3, 1994 by Ms. Natalie Adams. This field work involved 6.5 person hours. Laboratory and report production were conducted at Chicora's laboratories in Columbia, South Carolina on February 4 and 5, 1994.

Project Area

As previously indicated, the project area begins on the east bank of the Congaree River, near its confluence with Gills Creek, and ends at the Silver Lake substation located just west of the I-26 / U.S. Hwy 21/176 interchange, following a roughly northeast - southwest orientation. Most of the corridor is inaccessible by road, although I-26 intersects the corridor at the southwest end.

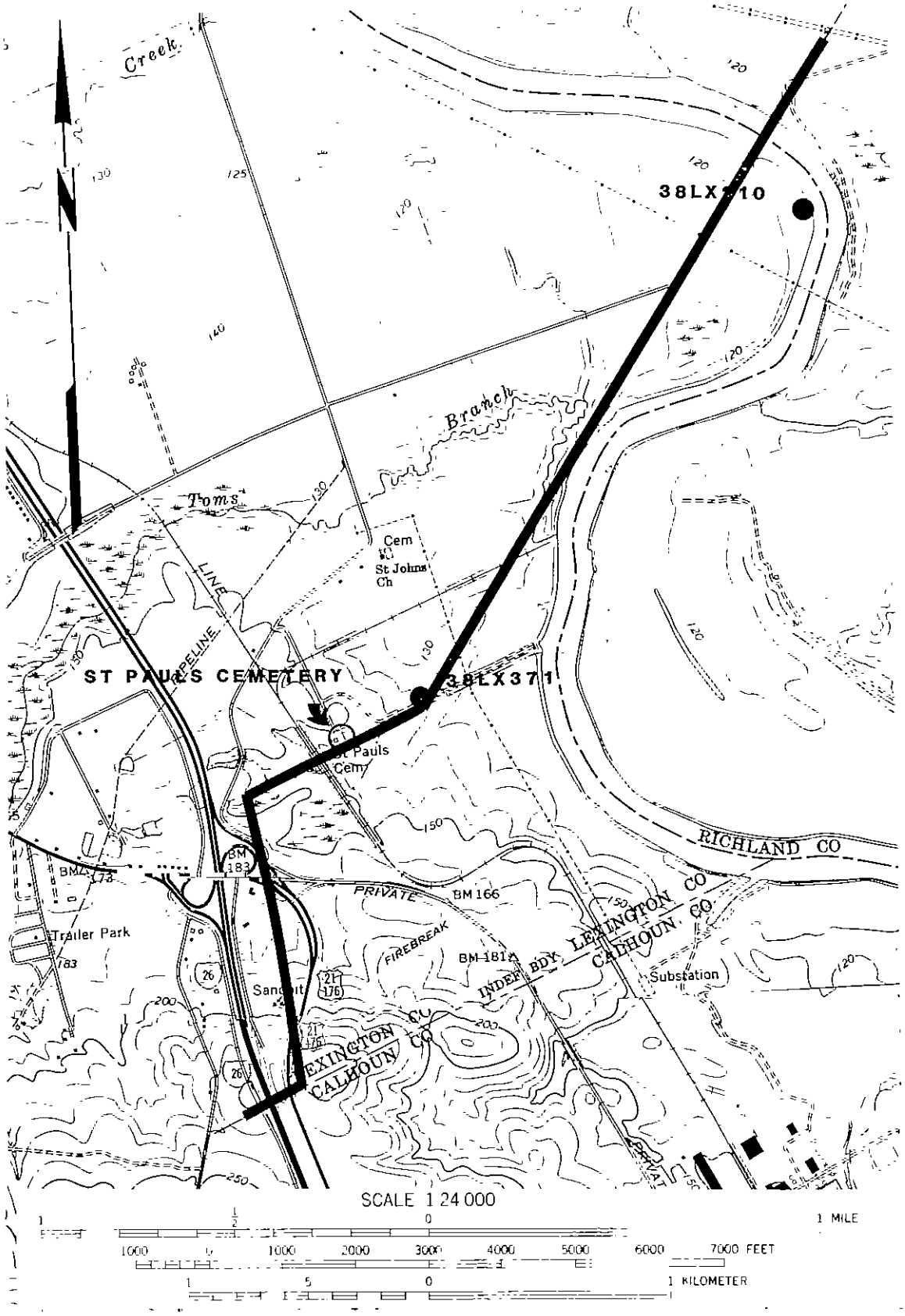


Figure 1. Location of the Silver Lake - Lyles transmission line.

The project area is situated primarily in Lexington County. Lexington County, situated in central South Carolina, lies in two physiographic provinces: the Piedmont Plateau to the northwest of the "fall line" and the Sandhills to the southeast. In the vicinity of the Fall Line, dividing the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, major physiographic and geologic subdivisions occur which likely influenced human occupation. On major drainages, such as the Congaree, the occurrence of rapids could interfere with water travel and the location of early historic occupation on the Fall Line reflects this concern (Jones 1971; Mills 1972 [1826]:157). The Fall Line also strongly influenced prehistoric occupation since its location between two major ecotones could allow exploitation of a greater diversity of resources. Elevations in the project area range from 120 feet MSL by the Congaree River to 230 feet MSL at the Silver Lake substation. About one half of the right of way is within the Congaree River floodplain at an elevation of 120 feet.

Lexington County is bounded to the north by Newberry County, to the east by Richland and Calhoun counties, to the south by Orangeburg County, and to the west by Aiken and Saluda counties. The project area falls within the Sandhills region. The geology of the Sandhills is characterized by marine-deposited sediments and the project area is characterized by Blaney, Brogdon, Chenneby, Congaree, Johnston, Lakeland, Paleaquults, Rains, and Toccoa soils (Lawrence 1976). Blaney sands are well drained and are normally found on toe slopes in the Sandhills region. Brogdon loamy sands are well drained and form in loamy sediment on stream terraces. Chenneby silty clay loams are somewhat poorly drained and are formed in silty fluvial sediment of stream food plains. Congaree silt loams are well drained soils formed in loamy alluvium on river and stream flood plains. Johnston mucky loams are very poorly drained soils that formed in stratified marine and fluvial deposits. Lakeland sands are excessively drained soils which formed in deep beds of marine sands. Paleaquults sandy soils are very poorly drained and formed in loamy marine and stream sediments. Rains sandy loams are very poorly drained and formed in loamy marine sediments on uplands of the Sandhills and on stream terraces. Finally, Toccoa fine sandy loams are well drained soils formed in loamy sediments on stream flood plains (Lawrence 1976).

The Saluda and Congaree Rivers drain the eastern portion of the county, and the north fork of the Edisto River drains the western portion. Numerous smaller streams (such as Toms Branch) are found throughout the county. Vegetation in the Sandhills region is characterized by two major forest types: the longleaf and loblolly pine communities (Frothingham and Nelson 1944:19-21). These communities consist primarily of pine with several species of hardwoods including gum and oak (Braun 1950: 285-286). Currently, the vegetation in the surrounding area consists of mixed pine/hardwood with a light to moderate understory of vegetation. In 1826 Robert Mills stated that the quality of lumber in the district was excellent:

> It is no uncommon thing to find trees of this description girthing six or seven feet. Besides the poplar, walnut, maple, and various species of the oak, there re the mock-orange, evergreen, elm, hickory, ash, gum, &c. Of the fruit trees there are, the peach, plum, cherry, pear, quince, and apple; besides the native grapes, and various nuts and melons (Mills 1972 [1826]:617).

The climate is temperate and is usually characterized by mild winters and warm summers. Rainfall measures from 46 to 48 inches a year. The annual distribution indicates that July is the wettest month with October and November are the driest. Summers are warm and long with temperatures reaching 90 degrees or higher on an average of 49 days, and they reach 100 degrees or more two or three days a year. Winters are mild and temperatures are as low as 32 degrees on 60% of the days. In 1826 Mills describes the climate as,

> mild and salubrious, except immediately bordering on the water-courses; what few diseases prevail are mostly confined to the bilious remittent fevers (Mills 1972 [1826]:621).

Previous Archaeological Investigations

Previous archaeological investigations in Lexington County include studies by Anderson (1974a; 1974b; 1979), Anderson et al. (1974), Drucker (1977), Goodyear (1975), Michie (1970; 1971; 1989), Trinkley (1974;1980) and Wogoman et al. (1976). The vast majority of these studies are associated with surveys of the Twelfth Street extension project or the southwestern beltway. Others have focussed on testing or excavation at sites such as the Manning site and the Thom's Creek site. In addition, a number of smaller highway department surveys and transmission line right of way surveys have been performed in the area.

During an archaeological survey of the southwestern beltway, Anderson et al. (1974) found that prehistoric sites occurring near the confluence of Congaree Creek (just north of the project area) and the Congaree River occurred on slightly elevated dry knolls or ridges within broad, flat, low-lying fields which overlook swamps (Anderson et al. 1974:4-5).

Very little historical archaeology has been performed in the Sandhills region of the state. However, work by Brooks and Crass (1991) at the Savannah River site provide some guide as to potential locations for historic sites in the region. During the colonial period, settlement was concentrated along major water courses on well drained elevated soils. However, during the late eighteenth century settlement had progressed up larger creeks. This pattern continued up through the mid-nineteenth century. During the postbellum and modern periods, settlement had shifted away from water-courses and became more road oriented.

Since a majority of the right of way is contained within the floodplain of the Congaree River, neither prehistoric nor early historic sites were expected in this area. Exceptions were areas where major creeks intersected the right of way. Although low and poorly drained, it was believed that these areas may have better potential particularly for prehistoric use. Other areas were not near major historic roads so the potential for late historic sites was considered low.

An examination of the site files housed by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology revealed that there were no known sites in the project area. However, just south of the right of way, on the west bank of the Congaree River, was 38LX210. This site was first recorded by Mr. Jim Michie in 1979. He noted a number of Mississippian sherds on a

sandbar. The size of the site was not determined and its archaeological potential was not examined.

Brief Historic Synopsis

General accounts of Lexington County history are presented by Anderson (1975), Gay (1974), Goodyear (1976), Meriwether (1940), Michie (1989), and Trinkley (1974).

Lexington County was first occupied by Europeans who built a fortified military garrison (Fort Congaree) in 1718 on the site of an a former Congaree Indian village. A second fortification was established 2 1/2 miles north after attacks by Iroquois from the Ohio Valley upon settlers in the late 1740s. These two forts were significant in the defence of the Carolina backcountry (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:132).

The first large trading post in central South Carolina was built near the old Congaree fort site in 1733. This post was an exchange center between Charles Town and the western settlements. During this year the area received political identity as Congaree District. Two years later it was renamed Saxe Gotha in an attempt to bring immigrants from Germany and Switzerland to the piedmont. Most of these early settlers were small farmers while the more prosperous ones operated stores, trading posts, saw and grist mills.

When the wagon road between the town and Augusta was opened in 1754, river traffic increased. A ferry operation began over the Congaree, and the village moved towards the ferry site where Granby Village was established sometime before 1774. As the head of navigation on the Congaree River, Granby became an important commercial center. Indigo, cotton, manufactured ropes, Indian corn, beeswax, and other goods from Saxe Gotha and the up country were transported to Charles Town where they were exchanged for salt, fabrics and other merchandise needed in the interior (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:134).

During the American Revolution Fort Granby, below the present town of Cayce, was the major outpost for British regulars in the area. In 1785, Lexington County was established in the Orangeburg District. With the development of Columbia, across the river, Granby Village declined in importance. The county seat was then moved from Granby Village to the town of Lexington (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:135-136).

Mills' Atlas (1972 [1826]) shows the project area as containing no subscribers within the right of way. The majority of settlement in the area is shown as occuring on State Road (Figure 2).

By 1860 the county contained 73 saw mills, one cotton and wool mill, eight carriage and wagon makers, one sash and blind factory, two boot and shoe makers, one tannery, one blacksmith, one turpentine distillery, one printing establishment, and one wooden bucket factory. Also, Guignard Brickworks, established in 1804, was a prospering business. The largest single pre-war industry by far was the Saluda Factory on the Congaree (see Trinkley 1989).

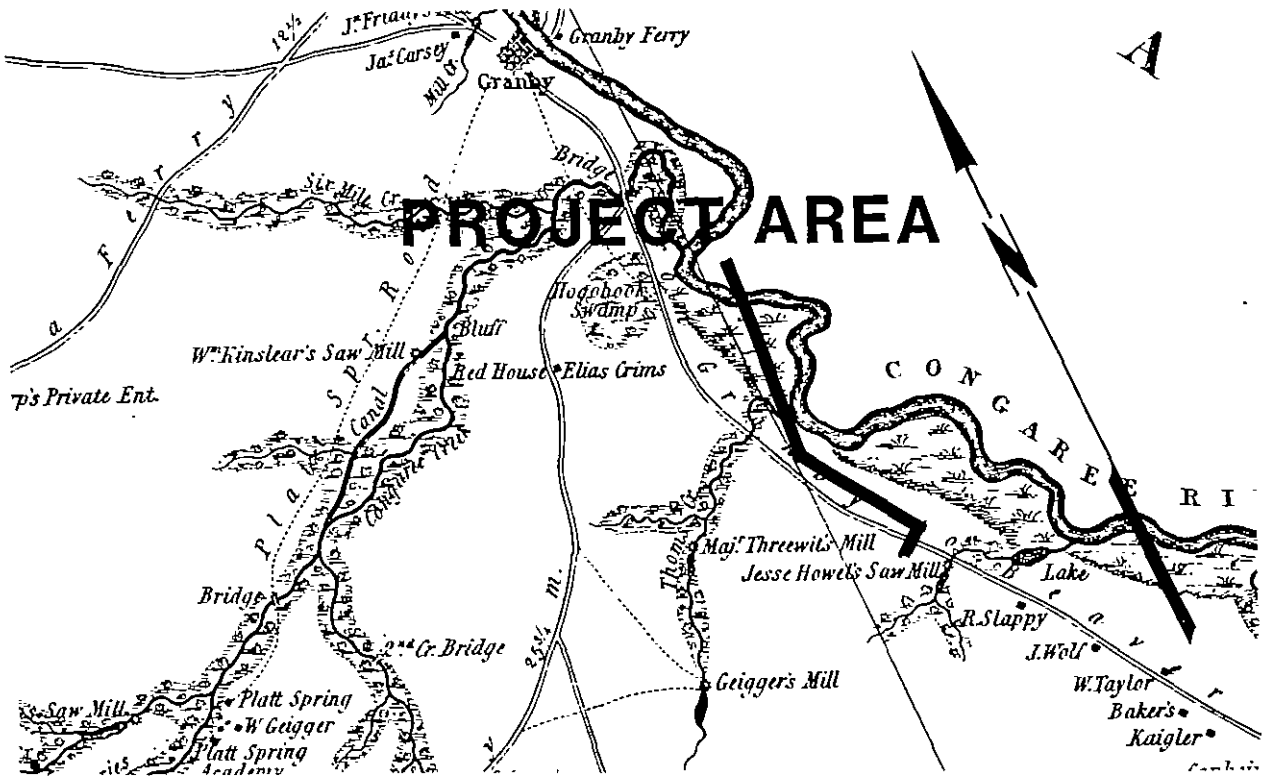


Figure 2. Mills' Atlas (1826) showing the project area in Lexington District.

During the Civil War Union forces invaded Lexington County and shelled the city of Columbia from the west bank of the Congaree. After the war most families were left destitute. Economic recovery was slow, aggravated by lack of capital and heavy reliance on an unproductive agricultural economy (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:136-137).

Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques for this intensive level survey involved the placement of a single transect through the corridor centerline at 100 feet or 200 feet intervals based on variables such as topography and drainage. Given that a large portion of the right of way was within the floodplain of the Congaree River, occasional deep tests were done to determine if there were buried deposits within the alluvium. The minimal definition of a site in this study was two or more artifacts within a 25 foot area.

Should sites be identified by surface collection and/or shovel testing, further tests would be used to help obtain additional data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. This information is required to determine site eligibility and is necessary for completion of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site

forms. Photographs would be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the field investigator.

All soils from the shovel tests would be screened through ¼-inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of at least one foot. As stated previously, occasional deep tests were excavated in the floodplain to determine if there were buried deposits. These tests were usually about four feet deep or the length of the shovel handle. These tests were intuitively placed. All cultural remains would be collected, except for shell, mortar, and brick, which would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered. Actual field techniques did not deviate significantly from those originally proposed. There were several large freshly plowed fields near the Congaree River that were subjected to intensive pedestrian survey. Shovel tests were only excavated in these areas to verify soil conditions and to check for buried deposits. These tests were randomly located since there was no evidence for any vague rises in these locations. Most of the soils in all of the Congaree floodplain were "weepy".

As a result of the archaeological survey of the Lyles - Silverlake transmission line right of way, 104 shovel tests were excavated with an average of one shovel test per 183 feet.

Curation

It is anticipated that field notes and artifacts will be accessioned for curation at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Field notes have been prepared for curation using archival standards and will be transferred to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology as soon as the project is complete.

Results

As a result of the archaeological survey of the Silver Lake - Lyles transmission line right of way, one new site (38LX 371) was identified and one site (38LX210) was revisited. In addition, the St. Paul's cemetery was visited and briefly recorded. This cemetery is located just north of the corridor.

38LX210 is located outside of the right of way on a sand bar formation on the west bank of the Congaree River about 800 feet south of station 4560 + 00. The site was first recorded by Mr. Jim Michie in 1979. He noted a number of Mississippian sherds on a sandbar. Apparently the size of the site was not determined, but it is possible that the site was deposited from remains upstream. The central UTM coordinates are E499110 N3751320 and the soils in the area are well drained Toccoa fine sandy loams.

During the current visit, only one small unidentifiable water worn sherd was encountered. Since the site is outside of the study area, no effort was made to further examine the site.

38LX371 is located by station 4479 +62. This site was identified as a small scatter of

prehistoric and twentieth century remains in a logged area and adjacent dirt road. Visibility was good and a collection was made. In addition five shovel tests were excavated at 25 foot intervals in a cruciform pattern from a central tests. None yielded subsurface remains.

The artifacts include one piece of milk glass, one fragment of yellow tile, two quartz flakes, one orthoquartzite flake, one rhyolite flake, and three small unidentifiable sherds. The central UTM coordinates are E497500 N3749440 and the soils are well drained Brogdon loamy sands. The site measures approximately 40 by 40 feet in size.

Potential research questions relating to twentieth century sites in this area could concentrate on the effects of encroaching urbanization to rural lifestyles. Questions relating to the Woodland period could concentrate on how the surround food resources were used, intra-site spatial patterning, or lithic raw material procurement strategies. However, given the sparse quantity of artifacts and the disturbance the area has received, this site can not address the research questions raised. As a result, this site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

St. Paul's Cemetery is situated just north of station 4466 + 19. This cemetery measures approximately 400 feet east-west by 300 feet north-south. This cemetery is occupied by members of the Adams, Earle, Elliot, Johnson, Jones, Sutton, Williams and Young families. Obvious indications of the cemetery include granite markers and metal tags. These markers indicate that the cemetery has been used from about 1966 to the present, with the latest burial dating to January of 1994. Other less obvious indications include a number of unmarked grave depressions. The northern boundary has been marked with survey stakes and the western boundary is defined by the railroad tracks. The southern and eastern boundaries are somewhat unclear. However, a walkover of the eastern portion indicated that some of these burials may have been disturbed by logging activities. In this area several fragments of metal tags were located. Beyond the obvious cemetery indicators along the southern portion of the cemetery are several vague depressions which *may* been graves. These depressions do not appear to extend south beyond a series of aluminum posts. If they are graves, it is possible that these depression predate the earliest marked grave.

While the center line of the right of way is south of the cemetery, flagging found along the northern edge of the right of way extends just north (approximately 20 feet) of the aluminum posts. It is suggested that the right of way be shifted slightly to the south so that activities do not take place north of these posts.

Conclusions

As a result of the survey of the Silver Lake to Lyles transmission line right of way one site (38BK210) was revisited, one new site (38LX371) was discovered, and the St. Paul's cemetery was examined. 38BK210 is located outside of the right of way and will not be impacted. 38LX371 is a Woodland period/20th century site which has been badly disturbed by logging activities and road construction. This site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion

on the National Register of Historic Places. St. Paul's cemetery, located just north of the right of way, is still active. It is recommended that construction activities do not take place north of the aluminum posts located along the southern boundary.

Sources Cited

Anderson, David

1974a *An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Alternate Two Route of the Columbia Southeastern Beltway, Richland-Lexington Counties, South Carolina*Research Manuscripte Series 87. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

1974b *38LX69 Testing Operations:Results.* South Carolina Institute of Archaeology.

1975 Fort Congaree on the Carolina frontier: a history of investigations 1970-1976. *South Carolina Antiquities,* Vol. 7, No. 2.

1979 *Excavation at Four Fall Line Sites: The Southeastern Columbia Beltway Project.* Commonwealth Associates, Inc.

Braun, E. Lucy

1950 *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America.* Blakiston, New York.

Brooks, Richard D. and David C. Crass

1991 *A Desperate Poor Country: History and Settlement Patterning on the Savannah River Site, Aiken and Barnwell Counties, South Carolina.* Savannah River Archaeological Research Papers 2. University of South Carolina.

Carrillo, Richard F.

1976 *An Archaeological Survey of Rawls and Kinley Creeks, Lexington County, South Carolina.* Research Manuscript Series 105. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Central Midlands Regional Planning Council

1974 *Central Midlands Historic Preservation Survey.* Central Midlands Regional Planning Council, Columbia.

Drucker, Lesley

1977 *Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Twelve Mile Creek Interceptor: Final Report.* Carolina Archaeological Services, Columbia.

Ferguson, Leland G.
1976 *An Archaeological Survey of a Fall Line Creek: Crane Creek Project; Richland County, South Carolina.* Research Manuscript Series 94. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Frothingham, E.H. and R.M. Nelson
1944 South Carolina Forest Resources and Industries.*United States Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publications* 522.

Gay, Charles
1974 "The history of Fort Congaree". Unpublished manuscript on file at the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina.

Goodyear, Albert C.
1975 *An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Alternate Three Route, Southern Alternate, of the Southwestern Columbia Beltway between I-26 and S.C. 48.* Research Manuscript Series 77. S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Columbia.

Goodyear, Albert C. and Michael A. Harmon
1979 *Archaeological Reconnaissance and Testing Along the Broad River, Richland County, Columbia, South Carolina.* Research Manuscript Series 153. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Harmon, Michael A.
1980 *An Archaeological Survey and Testing Program Along Six Mile Creek, Lexington County, South Carolina.* Research Manuscript Series 103. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Jones, Lewis P.
1971 *South Carolina: A Synoptic History for Laymen.* Sandlapper Publishing Co., Inc. Orangeburg, S.C.

Lawrence, Carl B.
1976 *Soil Survey of Lexington County, South Carolina.* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.

Meriwether, Robert L.
1940 *The Expansion of South Carolina, 1729-1765.* Southern Press, Kingsport, Tennessee.

Michie, James L.

1970 Excavation at Tom's Creek. *Notebook* 1(10):2-16.

1971 Excavations at the Taylor Site. Paper presented at the 27th Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Columbia, South Carolina.

1989 *The Discovery of Old Fort Congaree.* Research Manuscript Series 208. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Mills, Robert

1965 [1825] *An Atlas of the Districts of South Carolina in 1825.* Robert P. Wilkins and John D. Keels, Jr., Columbia.

1972 [1826] *Statistics of South Carolina.* The Reprint Company. Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Roberts, Wayne D.

1990 *An Intensive Archaeological Survey of the U.S. 378/S.C. 6 Intersection Improvements, Lexington, South Carolina.* S.C. Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Columbia, S.C.

Tippett, V. Ann

1982 *An Archaeological Survey of the Kinley-Rawls Creek Alternative Revision: Saluda River Sewerline Segment.* Research Manuscript Series 186. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Trinkley, Michael

1974 Archaeological Survey to locate Fort Congaree. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, manuscript.

1980 Archaeological Survey of the I-20/26=126 Project. Ms. on file, South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Columbia.

1989 *Archaeological Evaluation of the Proposed Riverbanks Botanical Gardens, Lexington County, South Carolina.* Research Contribution 36. Chicora Foundation, Inc., Columbia.

Wogoman, Ronald W., John H. House, and Albert C. Goodyear

1976 *An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Four Proposed Twelfth Street Extension Routes, Lexington County, South Carolina.* Research Manuscript Series 106. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.